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June 12, 1973

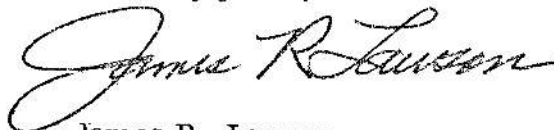
Dr. Robert C. Backus  
Executive Secretary  
Tuskegee Syphilis Study Ad Hoc  
Advisory Panel  
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Dr. Backus:

In response to your letter of May 3, this is to advise that the Fisk University Library hereby grants permission for the Tuskegee Syphilis Study Ad Hoc Advisory Panel to include in its historical reference documents those materials from the Rosenwald Foundation archives deposited in the Fisk Library.

We would indeed be very much interested in receiving a copy of the documents which the Panel will deposit at the National Library of Medicine and would appreciate having them sent to the attention of Dr. Jessie C. Smith, our librarian.

Sincerely yours,



James R. Lawson  
President

JRL:whe

cc: Dr. Jessie C. Smith  
University Librarian

\*INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS, OO  
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201  
March 23, 1973

Leonard J. Goldwater, M.D.  
Department of Community Health Sciences  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina 27710

Dear Dr. Goldwater:

We received your essay on "The Tuskegee Study in Historical Perspective" today and have forwarded it to all members of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study Ad Hoc Advisory Panel. We appreciate your thinking of us, and would like to have your permission to include the essay with materials that will be deposited with the Panel's reports after March 31, 1973.

Sincerely yours,

*R. C. Backus*

R. C. Backus, Ph.D.  
Executive Secretary  
Tuskegee Syphilis Study  
Ad Hoc Advisory Panel  
(Room 307, Westwood Building  
c/o National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014)

4/26/73

Dear Dr. Backus,

I am pleased that you are planning to include my "essay" with the Panel's report. My permission is gladly granted. Please note, however, that it has been submitted to the New England J. of Med. (no word yet as to acceptance).

Sincerely,  
*Leonard J. Goldwater*

Mrs. Carole Taylor  
 Head Librarian  
 Dillard University  
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

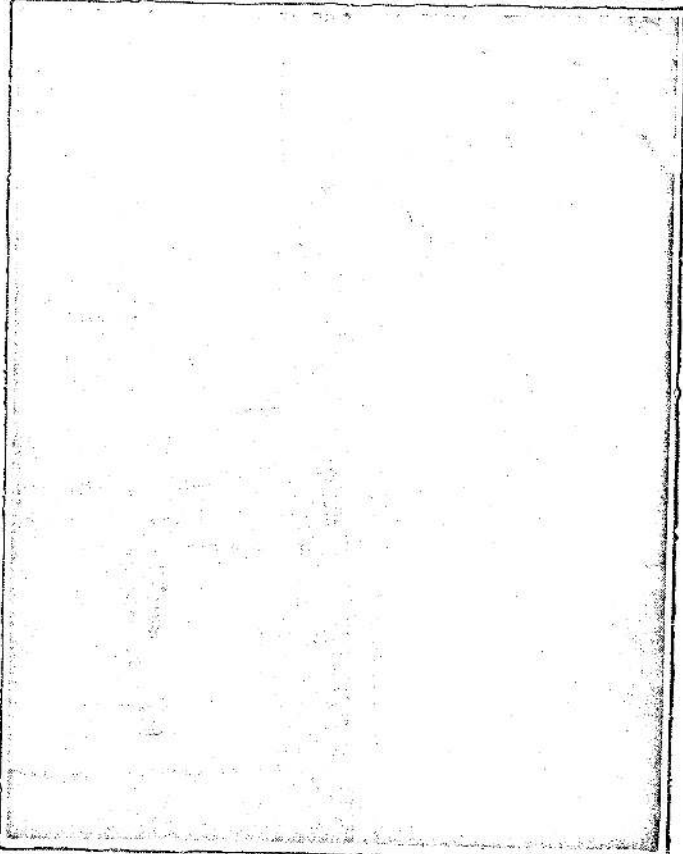
October 28, 1972

Re: Permission grant  
 for use of my thesis.

Dear Mrs. Taylor,

I gladly grant permission to Dr. Broadus Butler to copy, quote or use, in any way he wishes all or any section of my thesis, Development and Organization of Public Health Service of Macon County, Alabama. I am pleased that Dr. Butler thinks that information in my thesis will be of any value to him, and the committee he chairs, working on a project concerning public health services.

Sincerely yours,  
 Myrtle Winters



# WHEN THEY COME HOME

ISSUED BY  
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, 1918.



## WHEN THEY COME HOME

Your whole community will be at the station "when the boys come marching home." You are planning to *honor* these men with parades and celebrations of all kinds. Are you making sure that the profiteers of vice are not planning to take advantage of the days of festivity to *dishonor* them before they get settled again in the normal ways of life?

When men and girls are changing their occupations and ways of life, when war disciplines are being removed and when spirits are buoyant, the greatest temptations to self-indulgence and dangerous pleasures occur. Cities and towns throughout the country face now the most important crisis—the biggest emergency yet encountered in the fight against venereal diseases.

## WHAT THE WAR HAS TAUGHT US

"Our ignorance and failure in handling the problem of venereal diseases constitute the greatest crime of American civilization. This is the clearest lesson of the war." This was the conclusion of a medical officer in charge of the physical examinations of drafted men as they were admitted to one of our great army camps. He had been a physician in civil life, but not until he had seen with his own eyes the hundreds of diseased young soldiers as they filed by his examining table did he realize the extreme seriousness of the venereal problem.

Before the war, physicians and public health officers knew that gonorrhea was every year causing thousands of cases of blindness among infants, countless surgical operations on women, and sterility in both men and women; that syphilis was being transmitted to offspring, causing physical and mental defectives, that it was a prolific cause of locomotor ataxia, paralysis, paresis or softening of the brain, insanity, miscarriages, diseases of the heart, blood vessels and other vital organs. But people generally did not know these things and few medical measures were taken. The war opened our eyes.

## THE AMERICAN WAR PROGRAM

Our military authorities did not evade the problem of venereal disease as Europe, for two years, had done to its sorrow; they attacked it. Prudery and ignorance were no longer allowed to cover up widespread sickness and suffering. The old shams and fakes about the "sex necessity" and the need of licentious pleasure were thrown into the discard. From first to last the Government maintained the position accepted by the best medical authority, viz., that continence is entirely compatible with health, and that irregular sex intercourse with prostitutes is the most prolific cause of venereal disease. The denizens of the underworld were driven out of the zones around each army camp and naval station; all the men in camps were given extensive instruction; those exposed and infected were given prompt treatment; and the seven co-operating agencies furnished interesting, wholesome recreation.

This program brought results. The venereal rate was lowered below that of any army of any nation in the history of the world.

## VENEREAL DISEASES A PEACE PROBLEM

The examinations of drafted men showed that five men came into the army with venereal disease for every one who contracted it after he was in the army. And the one who contracted it in the army, probably, was infected in a civil community outside of military control. Venereal disease is, therefore, not a military problem or war epidemic; it is a civilian problem and a peace problem, taken over by military authorities for the period of the war *only* where civil communities had failed in their duty. The draft and physical examinations of men merely resulted in digging underneath the sod of our civil life and showing that out of sight in every man's town, in every man's state there has been going on yearly a waste of manhood, womanhood and childhood by the ravages of these preventable diseases; diseases

whose causes we know, whose germs we can see at identify through the microscope; diseases which we can locate in an individual; diseases which are transmitted in the course of a business which has no possible constructive use or value, by carriers who have to advertise and can be easily detected.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Now the returning soldiers, who have been given intelligent protection and wholesome recreation, are to be turned back to the civil communities. The federal government must, of necessity, in the next few months, give up its wartime control. These men are *your* responsibility now.

Some of these men are in your lodge, your employ, your union, your church, your neighborhood, some are your own sons. To protect these men from vice means also the protection of the girls of your community from temptation and disgrace and the saving of future wives from disease and suffering. Your community must organize as the military authorities did to make and keep your home town as easy a place in which to live clean as the army.

your community accepting its reconstruction task? What can you do?

### I

You can keep your red-light district closed and suppress commercialized prostitution of all kinds. Just now this means vigilance and sustained public opinion. If your city or town is one of the few places that has escaped government publicity and condemnation; if it still tolerates a so-called segregated district your first job is to close it. As a method of controlling vice the "red-light" district never had a sound leg to stand on: now the war has removed its last crutch. The military authorities, who sought only clean men for fighting, condemned it unqualifiedly: vice commissions in over fifty cities have condemned it after complete investigation; and experience in Europe shows plainly that the regulation and medical examination furnished are a farce.

The hasty examination given most prostitutes often does not reveal existing disease. Furthermore a prostitute may be free from a disease at the time of the

examination, be infected by a man the next hour, and thirty minutes later transmit disease to a second patron. A segregated district does not segregate all prostitutes—only those unfortunate women with the least personal attractiveness and the most diseased bodies. It creates a public, official market for the selling of diseases to customers from everywhere, aided often by the false medical guarantee that no disease exists. It does not segregate vice; a large part of it goes on clandestinely out of bounds. It surely does not segregate disease.

When the military zones are removed from federal control there will be pressure brought to bear to re-open the segregated district, or to wink at clandestine vice which has been rigidly suppressed under military order. But if prostitutes carried disease last week, they carry it next week. In war or peace the segregated district is a synonym for crime, venereal disease and needless waste of human life.

ABOLISHING THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT IS NOT THE END OF THE CLEAN-UP OF THE COMMUNITY. Boarding houses, assignation houses, cafes, dance halls, massage parlors, amusement parks, and for-hire automobiles are the refuges of clandestine prostitution. They must all be watched, and watched continuously. Legislation is needed in some cases to control these places. What is effective is not a spectacular raid now and then, but constant vigilance on the part of public officers and citizen associations. Each attack on prostitution, by driving it more and more to cover, reduces the number of individual exposures to venereal diseases.

Such a program of suppression often causes some sentimental or ignorant persons to rise up and say: "you are fanatical," "you are hounding the poor, unfortunate prostitute," or "the lid ought to be tipped up a little so that everybody can have a good time and so that business will be better." These are absurdities. Prostitutes themselves, after they have had a glimpse of decent life in a detention home, say that "there is no greater wrong you can do a girl than to allow her to remain a prostitute." Only in trashy novels and "movies" is the prostitute's life a rosy one. In reality, to quote her own words, "it is hell." What kind of good time do you treat for recreation-loving men and women by "tipping up the lid?" It may be a gay time for a night, perhaps, and then mornings-after and months-after of disaster and disease. An open town will mean better business for some doctors, hospitals, and undertakers. It means prosperity for the pimps and landlords who live on the earnings of these women. But for legitimate business, it means higher taxes, lowered efficiency, less buying power—an infinitely poorer community.



## II

You can make a direct attack on venereal disease, by segregating, not prostitution, but venereal disease. The Boards of Health in most states in cooperation with the United States Public Health Service, are building up an organization to treat these diseases among civilians in the same effective and scientific way that the war authorities have done in the camps. They must be considered in the same category with all other contagious diseases.

Practically all prostitutes are diseased; and must be quarantined. Feeble-minded prostitutes must be permanently isolated from society; others should be repaired in health and given a chance to learn a useful occupation. If there is no place in which to put women but county farms, jails or pest houses, their quarantine can be of partial value. Well equipped detention homes are badly needed everywhere.

Many others aside from professional prostitutes are infected with venereal disease and need treatment. In many communities the hospitals do not admit such cases. They should. *If the hospitals in your community do not do so, they are refusing to isolate not only a victim but a carrier of the scourge.*

Cheap, prompt and accessible treatment for venereal cases, such as was given to soldiers in the army, must be provided by public clinics. Such clinics are rapidly being established by Boards of Health and the United States Public Health Service, the American Red Cross cooperating.

Improper treatment by quacks and by use of patent medicines has done a great deal to increase the number of very severe cases in advanced stages. The best druggists are joining in the movement, inaugurated by the Public Health Service, to refrain from selling patent medicines and to refer diseased persons to reliable physicians or clinics.

Most state boards of health now require physicians to report all cases of venereal disease by name or number and to quarantine all patients who refuse to follow rules to prevent infection. These regulations are absolutely necessary in fighting any contagious disease.

## III

You can educate people with regard to venereal diseases. The men working with the soldiers in the army camps found the most widespread ignorance on the whole subject of sex and venereal diseases. All who deal with the victims of these diseases hear day after day the same story: that ignorance and mis-education caused the first fatal mis-step.

Education formed a very important part of the government's program with the soldiers and sailors. It is a more essential part of a civilian program. Your state and city boards of health should be able to furnish you with pamphlets for all classes and groups: for parents, for teachers, for children, for young men and boys, for young women and girls. There are available also exhibits and motion pictures for your use. Books on sex education can be had at libraries and nearly all librarians will be glad to help in making them more useful. Don't start on an educational crusade of your own. Get in touch with one of the regular, well recognized agencies, your state board of health, your social hygiene society, or the United States Public Health Service.

## IV

You can provide wholesome recreation. The army didn't stop when it drove out the prostitutes, when it treated the victims of disease; it didn't stop after it told the men in as many different ways as it could the dangers and seriousness of irregular sex relations. It knew too much about human nature to stop there. It filled the soldier's life with hard work and interesting, healthy recreation. Neither should your town stop until it furnishes plenty of clean, wholesome play for its citizens. In some ways this is the most important element in the whole program.

Men and girls need companionship, excitement and recreation. The contemptible profiteers of vice exploit this natural desire. The red-light district, saloon and low dance hall, cheap and tawdry though they be, are easy, accessible, exciting means of recreation. In many communities these dangerous amusements form the only kind available for strangers, and the friendless. Outdoor play and sports, attractive lounging places, open houses and clubs, organized athletics, gymnasiums, reading rooms, fraternal activities, community singing, good theatres at reasonable prices, well supervised dancing: these are the successful and effective substitutes for the saloon and the brothel.

## HOW ABOUT IT MR. CITIZEN?

How do you stand on this program? It is no easy task. But venereal disease has been controlled in other towns and it can be in your town. Mayors and chiefs of police, who have done their duty in war time, are not likely to relax their efforts now. If they do they may be quickly aroused by citizens like you.

Clinics, hospital wards, reformatories, homes for the feeble-minded, education and recreation cost cold, hard cash, but it can be proved that they are much cheaper in dollars and cents than the enormous industrial and human waste caused by the spread of venereal diseases.

This is not a job for sentimentalists or fly-by-night enthusiasts. It is a task for hard-headed business and professional men and women. It is a job for citizens who feel responsible for their community and their nation in times of peace as well as war.

### AFTER THE WAR

With war's final end, many war buildings, war jobs and institutions will go to the scrap heap. But every item in the program of venereal disease control is as necessary to successful peace as to successful war. Don't scrap your patriotism and community spirit in this matter. There should be no peace for prostitution, no truce for the "tenderloin," no armistice with venereal diseases. Make your blows knockouts against vice. The soldiers, *when they come home* from the trenches, will be the first to join you in your fight.

### FREE PAMPHLETS

Additional copies of this pamphlet and others explaining the government's campaign against venereal diseases and presenting the true facts of sex in a wholesome manner will be sent to any address free.

- SET A. For young men.
- SET B. For the general public.
- SET C. For boys.
- SET D. For parents of children.
- SET E. For girls and young women.
- SET F. For educators.

*Write to the*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
228 First Street, Northwest  
WASHINGTON  
1918

V. D. Pamphlet No. 23.

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